

Amos Dean, L. L. D.

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

The Annals of Iowa, 12(2) (Apr. 1874): 119-125

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zest. Nearly all the places of worship were opened for religious services, and the Episcopal and Catholic churches were handsomely decorated with evergreens. Great numbers of Christmas gifts were distributed. At the hotels, extra efforts were put forth for the accommodation of their guests, and at the Ogden House a large party assembled which kept up the dance until a late hour the following morning. The sleighing was excellent, and the merry jingle of the bells added greatly to the animation of the day. But nowhere was the season more keenly enjoyed than at the institution for the deaf and dumb. Here were assembled over one hundred pupils, who with their teachers and officers gave themselves up to innocent yet joyous festivity. There was an excellent dinner, great numbers of gifts were distributed, and the novel sight was presented of correct dancing without music, and even without a "call," except such as the sign-language afforded. The study rooms were all gracefully decorated with evergreen garlands, wreaths, and appropriate mottoes, and everything about the institution afforded indications of the careful and systematic manner in which its affairs were conducted.

AMOS DEAN, L.L. D.

A brief notice of the first Chancellor of the University of Iowa may prove interesting to the readers of THE ANNALS. His life is not presented as a record of brilliant achievements, but rather as an illustration of what can be attained in the way of intellectual culture without the benefits of what is now termed a thorough education.

In estimating the true worth of any person, we must consider not only what he accomplished, but the difficulties with which he had to contend. The more adverse the cir-

cumstances, the more honorable the success. If he is the greatest general who organizes victory out of defeat, so is he proportionally great who accomplishes most substantial results with limited means. Judged by this standard, the life work of Amos Dean was well done. He was born in Barnard, Windsor county, Vermont, on the 16th day of January, 1803. The advantages of the wealthy in that locality and day were limited; and he who secured a liberal education did so at no little expense, self-sacrifice, and faithfulness.

But the father of Prof. Dean was a farmer whose means were exhausted in providing the necessities of life for his family. Yet by improving the winter sessions of the district schools, by reading every book which he could obtain, and by the most rigid economy, he was enabled to attend an academy for short periods at a time, and at length to secure one year of college training.

He entered the Senior class in Union College, and graduated with the second honor in 1826. With this fragmentary education he entered upon his life work as a toiler in the field of study and thought. Realizing how imperfect his preparation was, he sought to obviate its defects by a life of well directed effort. He entered upon the study of law, in Albany, New York, where he passed the remainder of his life; and, though never taking any very prominent part in affairs as a public man, he was identified with almost all its literary, scientific, and educational institutions. In the practice of the law he won and maintained an enviable reputation. Quick to grasp the vital points of a case, he was equally ready to apply the legal principles that settled them. His natural tendency to the quiet life of a student led him to prefer the patient labor of the office to the more showy duties of the pleader. He chose to make out a case by exhaustive research, rather than to argue it before the courts. His love for the principles of his profession, and his patient industry and thorough investigation was a fitting preparation for the work which he achieved as a lawyer, an educator, and an author. In 1833 he organized "The Young

Mens' Association, of Albany," the pioneer of those institutions for mutual mental improvement which have done so much for education by means of literary and scientific discussions, lecture courses, and libraries.

In 1838, in connection with some of the most eminent physicians, he organized the "Albany Medical College," and for more than twenty years filled the chair of medical jurisprudence.

In 1851 Prof. Dean was one of the founders of the "Albany Law School," of which he assumed the active management, and lectured daily on that department of the law pertaining to business, personal property, contracts, &c. In 1854 he withdrew from the practice of law; and in 1859 resigned his chair in the medical college in order that he might devote his whole time to his legal and historical studies.

He was also, for a number of years, connected with the Albany Female Academy as lecturer on history; and with the Dudley Observatory, and State Normal School as trustee and director. In 1855 he was elected chancellor of the University of Iowa, and professor of history. His success as an educator, and his love, we might say passion, for the study of history made this offer peculiarly attractive; and he accepted the position. He spent a part of each year for three years in Iowa City, organizing the University then just chartered and partially endowed. His aim was to establish it upon the university plan, where education should be carried on from the lower to the highest branches; to make it for Iowa what Michigan University is to Michigan. But this fond plan he relinquished, not because he did not deem it feasible, but because he was so closely identified with the law school and other institutions of Albany that he could not sunder his connection with them. But though he resigned his position, he retained until his death the deepest interest in the University, and a strong attachment to Iowa City.

In this department of his work, the educational, it will

suffice to say that he was most diligent in the preparation and revision of his lectures, that he was thoroughly in sympathy with his students, and that he possessed the faculty of inspiring them with a love for study, and of making them think for themselves. Hundreds of his students, both in law and medicine, all over the country, will remember how genial he was in his intercourse with them, and how faithfully he labored to prepare them for the practice of their profession.

These duties alone would make up the record of a busy life; but in addition to them Prof. Dean found time to devote to literature, and to his favorite study, history. The results of his labors in this direction are found in his printed works. In 1835 he published a work on "Phrenology," one of the first, if not the first, issued in this country. His "Philosophy of Human Life" appeared in 1839. He revised and condensed his lectures on "Medical Jurisprudence," and published them in 1850. In 1860 he prepared the volume entitled "Bryant & Stratton's Commercial Law," published under the direction of Messrs. Bryant & Stratton, and used by them in their colleges throughout the country.

But during the time that he was pursuing these varied studies, he was engaged on what he regarded his life work. From boyhood he had been fascinated with history. Its wonderful unfoldings gratified his craving to trace events back to their causes. Its tragic elements furnished his mind with excitement and stimulus. The more he studied it, the more he loved it; and the more he read, the deeper became his desire to find its connecting thread—to trace the events of one age back to some preceding cause or causes in a past age. The facts of history are in themselves a wonderful study, but greater than these is the philosophy of history—history, as a connected whole, in which the present is studied in the light of the past, and the past seen in the fulfillment of the present. As a result of his reading and reflection, he struck out a plan for prosecuting the study of progress of man as unfolded in his successive civilizations; and in

1833, being then thirty years of age, he commenced "The History of Civilization." For thirty-five years he devoted every spare hour to the completion of this work, collecting a large library, and denying himself every pleasure which could conflict with its preparation.

The gist of his plan was unfolded in a paper read by him before the "Association for the Advancement of Science," entitled the "True Method of Studying and Teaching History." Its opening sentence gives the key-note to both the paper and the history. "History, says Lord Bolingbroke, is philosophy-teaching by examples. I would rather define it to be God teaching by examples; for God is, in history alike as in the workings of inanimate nature, carrying out his plans and purposes through laws which he ordains and enforces."

Further on he says, "I understand history to be a record of human progress, and I would teach it: 1st. In the evidences upon which its revelations rest, viz: the monument, the man, the written record. 2d. In certain great principles that lie at the foundation of all historical development, viz: industry, religion, government, society philosophy, and art." These he calls "organizing forces," which together embrace and exhaust all there is of human power, energy, and activity. His work is the unfolding of each of these elements of human progress in the successive nations and ages of the world. It is different from other histories, because they, as a rule, take up one nation or period and relate chronologically all that transpired; while in "The History of Civilization" Prof. Dean traces the inception and advance of each of these elements chronologically through all nations, and, in so doing, narrates the wars and revolutions and prominent persons which were instrumental in developing the industries, religions, governments, manners and customs of society, schools of philosophy, and arts of the world. It is a compendium of history, containing the results of a vast amount of research in condensed statements, but presented in an attractive manner. It lacks one thing, viz.,

the last revision of the author in proof-sheets ; for, though during five years, he had been carefully revising and re-writing in the light of new historical developments, he was suddenly called away from earth, like Buckle and Sumner, lamenting that he could not see finished in print the work to which he had devoted his life.

His history was published shortly after his death in seven large volumes ; and, though not extensively advertised, it has had a wide-spread circulation, and has received the commendation of the press and of some of the first students of the land. We cannot forestall the verdict of the future concerning it ; but it must be said that it is original in plan, concise in statement, chaste in expression, and — as the author had no favorite theories to sustain at any hazard, either social, moral, governmental, religious, or otherwise—truthful in its presentation of facts. A well disciplined mind, candidly investigating for thirty-five years the progress of the world, and collecting from all sources, must have gathered and digested for the ages a work of no little value.

It would be a pleasing task to consider the personal character of Prof. Dean ; but our notice perhaps is sufficiently extended. He was peculiarly sunny in his temperament, always genial ; and, though not feeling that he could spare time from his work to engage in social pleasures, he was most frank and friendly in his intercourse with others. The society of the young, and especially the struggles of young men to secure an education, called forth his deepest sympathies. Their frequent calls upon him for aid and advice were cheerfully met by whatever he had to give. Because very thorough and methodical in his work he was enabled to accomplish so much in so many departments. Each hour had its allotted duty ; and so precise was he in improving it that those who knew him best could tell at any time where to find him, and upon what he was engaged. His manners were homely and unaffected ; but no one could mistake the largeness of his heart, and the sincerity of his nature. With no thought of malice in his own disposition,

he could scarcely realize how others could entertain such a feeling. He moved through life singularly loving and beloved, widely known and respected by all among whom he had passed his days; and when called away from earth all classes of his fellow citizens evinced the sense of the loss they had sustained in his death by the eulogies of the press, by crowding to the utmost, during a fearful storm, the large church in which the funeral services were held, and by their manifestations of sorrow when he was carried lovingly to his long resting place.

Of his family life we may not speak further than to say that his home was his delight, and that to his wife and children he was all that a husband and father could be. He was a firm believer in religion, and for years was a member of the Presbyterian church. He lived as one called of God to do a work for Him, and conscientiously endeavored to do that work in the fear of God and in the spirit of Christ. In the faith of Christ he lived, and in the hope of a blessed immortality he died, entering into that "rest which remaineth for the people of God" upon the 26th day of January, 1868.

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**REPORT OF CAMPAIGN AGAINST MAJOR GENERAL STERLING
PRIOR, IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1864.**

[Continued from page 79, Vol. XII., No. 1.]

I MADE every effort within my power to comply with instructions as above stated. The public transportation not yet returned to the depot, I was compelled to gather transportation from every available source, to enable me to forward supplies as directed. To do this, I hired such wagons and teams as I could, purchased mules to replace those worn out on the march, and to fit out teams, and impressed all others in the vicinity.

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